



City of Carlsbad

Office of the Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

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POLICE WARN CITIZENS OF POTENTIAL SCAMS

Several elderly citizens were recently victimized by someone making unnecessary auto and home repairs, and police are warning all residents to be wary of such fraud.

Several versions of this scam have occurred:

- The subject flags the victim down on the road, telling the victim that their car is on fire and they can fix it for cash.
- The subject points out dings in the victim's car and offers to fix them.
- The subject knocks on the victim's door and offers to waterproof their roof.
- Two subjects knock on the victim's door and gain entry. One subject provides a diversion while the other steals cash.

Citizens are reminded to be wary of people they don't know approaching them in their vehicle, at home, or in public, offering services in exchange for cash. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the Carlsbad Police Department at 760-931-2197 with a description, license plate, and direction of travel if possible.

Law enforcement is particularly concerned about scams during this period of economic uncertainty -- scam artists may be more desperate for cash and our citizens may be less able to financially recover from a loss due to fraud.

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Carlsbad police officials offer the following safety tips to avoid becoming a victim of a scam:

- Be wary of anyone who approaches you unsolicited, whether it be to offer services for sale or to solicit donations.
- Follow identity theft prevention guidelines by never giving a credit card or a check to anyone who solicits you and you do not know. It is often very difficult to determine if someone is legitimately representing a real organization or charity.
- Always look through the peep hole or window and see who is at the door and never open the door to someone you do not know.
- Teach your children what to do if they are alone and someone comes to the home or is looking in windows.
- If you do not know who is at your door, say “No thank you” through the door and walk away.
- Assure that elderly relatives and friends are aware of safety and fraud prevention precautions and assist as needed.
- If you notice anything suspicious, please call the police department when the activity is happening (760-921-2197, 24 hours a day).

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